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The second possesses several advantages, by reason of its larger size and clearer typography. It is admirably engraved. Its movable disc is $19\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, and is mounted on a cardboard 19×23 inches. It includes the constellations, with stars of the five brightest magnitudes as far as 50° South Declination. In nearly all cases it gives the names or numbers of the stars. It also gives a large number of clusters and nebulae. Double and multiple stars are distinguished from others by a small dash printed near them.

The only circles on this planisphere are those indicating the positions of the ecliptic and celestial equator. A device is given by means of which approximate Right Ascensions may be obtained. A string representing the meridian is stretched across the disc from the top to the bottom of the planisphere. The Right Ascensions are printed around the circumference of the disc. A star whose Right Ascension is sought being brought under the string, will have its Right Ascension indicated at the circumference at the point under the string. No means is given for obtaining the declinations.

A CÉLESTIAL HANDBOOK.

BY W. J. HUSSEY.

As a companion to his planisphere, Mr. COLAS has prepared a *Celestial Handbook* of $110 + xiii$ pages. It is published by POOLE Brothers, Chicago. Price, \$2.00.

It begins with several pages of introductory matter of an elementary character on the magnitudes, distances and classification of the stars and on the precession of the equinoxes. Then ninety-one pages are devoted to the constellations having north polar distances less than 140° ; six pages to a variety of tables, including a list of the constellations, the names of the principal stars, the principal binary stars, the finest colored double stars, stars for which a parallax has been found, etc.; and, finally, excepting indices, five pages to shooting stars, comets and the planets.

The account of each constellation begins with a very short description. This is followed by a list of its lucid stars, including their magnitudes and approximate positions for 1880, and then by notes on the more interesting stars, nebulae and clusters.

In the notes, especial prominence is given to double stars and to stars for which a parallax has been found. In these particulars they are apparently trustworthy. Some of the other notes, however, are not of a character that inspires confidence. They seem to have been picked up second-hand and not to have been selected from original sources, and not always in the light of the most recent investigations.

Five satellites are attributed to *Jupiter*. It thus takes account of Professor BARNARD's brilliant discovery of last September. The reappearance of *Nova Aurigæ*, however, is not mentioned, and, consequently, nothing is said of its nebulous character as demonstrated spectroscopically by Professor CAMPBELL and (independently, the same night) visually by Professor BARNARD. The velocity of *Arcturus* in the line of sight is given 3,100 miles per minute. In 1890, Professor KEELER, from his own and VOGEL's observations, showed this to be enormously in error. (See *Publications A. S. P.*, No. 11, page 284.) In considering the motion of the system of *Algol*, no account is taken of the important investigations of VOGEL and CHANDLER. (See *Astronomische Nachrichten*, No. 2947 and *Astronomical Journal*, Nos. 225 and 226.) Such statements as the following speak sufficiently for themselves. Thus, of γ *Cassiopeæ*, "It contains some incandescent hydrogen: it has been burning more than 2,000 years and the fire seems to be as fierce as ever." Of the great nebula in *Andromedæ*, "The spectral analysis indicated that this nebula is entirely gaseous." Etc.

The book is illustrated by nearly 150 cuts, most of which, however, are merely diagrams of double stars.

The book might have been materially improved by extending the account of shooting stars, comets and the planets, and by including also an account of the Sun and Moon. As it is, it contains much that will be of value to amateur astronomers who are interested in double stars.